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Laura Linney in
Carolina Herrera



Furnishings at Ankasa New York.

On the fringe of New York's Gold Coast, on Manhattan's Upper East Side, lies a stretch of **Lexington Avenue** that is more evocative of Paris's Left Bank than it is of its much closer neighbor, Madison Avenue, a mere two blocks west. Just north of 59th Street, home of Bloomingdale's, the steel-clad skyscrapers of Midtown recede, making way for boutiques that brim with one-of-a-kind fashions, accessories, jewelry, antiques, home-decor items and gifts likely to lure the most discerning of shoppers.

It's a wonder the floors don't sag under the heaps of merchandise at **William-Wayne & Co.** (No. 850; 212-737-8934; william-wayne.com), where owners William Meyer and Wayne Adler offer melamine plates in coral and faux-bois motifs (\$12 each), sea-grass warming chairs like those made on Scotland's Orkney Islands (\$1,750) and Christmas-tree ornaments from Germany (starting at \$8.95).

Fabrizio Biasiolo and his wife, Lupe, are out to change how the world sleeps, one 600-thread-count pillowcase at a time. The couple met while working for Frette and later opened **Casa del Bianco** (No. 866; 212-249-9224; casadelbianco.com), where they sell custom linens and coverlets

fashioned at factories in Italy from Egyptian cotton as well as from Irish linen and Italian silk. A set of sheets, including two king shams, costs between \$680 and \$2,800, depending on the fabric and finish.

In June of this year, Babi and Sachin Ahluwalia, the Indian-born designers whose embroidery garnishes gowns by Oscar de la Renta and other couturiers, opened **Ankasa New York** (just off Lexington at 135 East 65th Street; 212-861-6800; ankasa.com), their first retail store. On two dreamy levels shoppers can find lizard and snakeskin pillows (from \$600 to \$900) and

a six- or eight-candle chandelier made from the reclaimed French-oak staves and hoops of wine barrels (\$4,000). The duo's signature handiwork embellishes pillows (ranging in price from \$425 to \$750) that are crafted from an assortment of luxurious fabrics.

Former Ford model and television host **Nina Griscom** has parlayed her passion for collecting while traveling into a full-fledged store for decor (No. 958; 212-717-7373; ninagriscom.com). A horn chair with a suede seat and pony-skin accents is \$6,000, lampshades made of porcupine quills are \$300 and \$435, and telephone tables finished in frog skin and shagreen range from \$1,800 to \$3,200. Griscom also stocks gifts such as zebra-skin coasters (\$150 for six), snakeskin ban-

gles (\$200 each) and cashmere-covered water bottles (\$250 each).

From a 400-square-foot jewel box bears his name, **Amedeo Scognar** (who, with his childhood friend Roberto Faraone Mennella, also designs for Roberto Faraone Mennella jewelry collection) carrying on the family tradition of coral and cameos by hand, a practice that his ancestors began in 1857 in Capri, Italy. **Amedeo** (No. 958; 212-737-4100; amedeos.com), sells belt buckles made of coral or Sardinian coral cast in bronze or silver and accented with stones (\$2,500 to \$4,000), and cameos made in the customer's likeness (\$5,000 and up).

The inventory is constantly in flux. **Mecox Gardens** (No. 962; 212-249-9224; mecoxgardens.com), where a driftwood framed mirror sells for \$2,800 and a chandelier made of shells that looks like an eyelet lace goes for \$2,350. Sea-

"LEXING AVENUE LIKE VIA BOTTEGGI IN CAPRI VIA SPIGOLINI IN MILAN."

—AMEDEO SCOGNAR



The showroom at Amedeo Scognar.



Nina Griscom in her design boutique.

mounted and framed in wood coated with a silver wash, are \$395 and \$650, while cashmere throws are \$1,000, and cut-velvet pillows, \$285.

The second floor of **Roberta Freymann** (153 East 70th Street; 212-585-3767; roberta-freymann.com) feels like the airy salon of a benevolent aunt who's just circumnavigated the globe and returned with a bounty of gifts handpicked for you. In her travels this auntie has collected necklaces made of wax beads dipped in silver and 18-karat gold (\$200 and \$650, respectively); a leopard-print wool wrap accented with rabbit-fur pom-poms (\$105); and the Mermaid tank, a liquid-like sequined top available in sea green, sapphire blue and black (\$175).

The "house of provenance" is how a friend of **R. Louis Bofferding** once described the former curator's self-named antiques gallery (No. 970; 212-744-6725), abundant not only with furniture and objects designed by 20th-century icons such as Billy Baldwin and John Dickinson but also with the stories of the luminaries who owned them. A fifteen-piece set of gilded-porcelain figurines depicting Persian musicians, sculpted by Andrea Spadini, which once adorned the dining table of George T. and Valerie Delacorte, is \$15,000, while a pair of marble-topped, faux-

painted Dickinson cabinets from the designer's San Francisco home is \$55,000.

A custom-designed jewelry case facilitates both browsing and conversation at

Jennifer Miller (No. 972; 212-734-8199; jewelsbyjen.com), an eponymous boutique that sells a mix of fine and faux gems as well as accessories and apparel to women eager to enhance their wardrobe. Among this season's wares are earrings in rose gold set with dark pink tourmalines and white diamonds (\$5,000); tsavorite and diamond earrings reminiscent of disco balls (\$10,000); and a rose-gold and ebony link bracelet, with or without diamonds (\$1,850 to \$9,000).

Designed by architect and co-owner Len Morgan, **Cove Landing** (No. 995; 212-288-7597) is a pristine gallery of period pieces curated by Angus Wilkie, his partner. Wilkie, who wrote the definitive book on Biedermeier, collects what he likes and what he likes includes mostly English, Irish and Continental furniture from the 18th and 19th centuries. An Irish steel-framed campaign chair is \$6,000 while a stepped mahogany writing table is \$10,000. Diminutive collectibles such as snuffboxes made from turned horn and toothpick boxes carved from ivory range from \$500 to \$1,500.

San Antonio native and interior designer **Todd Alexander Romano** buzzes around his recently redecorated three-

room shop (No. 1015; 212-879-7722; toddrmanohome.com) like a man on a mission, and the mission is fresh riff on the classics. There are plates and terrines from the Italian pottery firm first



Casa del Bianco's linens.